

REMARKS

This paper is filed in response to the Office Action mailed on May 26, 2005. In the Office Action, claims 6, 11, 17, 22 and 27 are indicated as being withdrawn from further consideration as being directed toward a non-elected species. However, amendments to independent claims 1, 7, 13, 18 and 23 render these independent claims allowable and therefore provide generic linking claims to non-elected claims 6, 11, 17, 22 and 27 respected. Accordingly, because the independent claims are allowable, reconsideration of dependent claims 6, 11, 17, 22 and 27 is respectfully requested.

Next, the Office Action rejects claims 1-2 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,637,452 ("Alman"). This rejection is rendered moot in view of the amendment to independent claim 1 rendering independent claim 1 allowable.

Next, the Office Action rejects claims 7, 10, 12-13, 15-16, 18, 21, 23 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as allegedly being unpatentable over Alman in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,394,135 ("Erickson"). This rejection is rendered moot in view of the amendments to independent claims 7, 13, 18, and 23. An early withdrawal of this obviousness rejection is respectfully requested.

The claims have been amended in accordance with the statement set forth on page 3 of the Office Action and therefore Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in a condition for allowance and an early action so indicating is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

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